Village Energy Project on Bio-mass

642. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that in the National Conference on Renewable Energy for Rural areas in July, 2004, it was decided to select one village energy project in every district of the country to provide village energy security on biomass;

(b) if so, the details of villages taken up under the above projects in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the criteria adopted in identification of villages;

(d) whether it is also a fact that 100 such projects are proposed to be completed by March, 2006; and

(e) if so, the details of villages selected and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STIVTE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) In the National Conference on Renewable Energy for Rural Areas organized by the Ministry in July, 2004, it was stated that it is planned to make a beginning by setting up pilot projects on village energy security in a few selected villages.

(b) Test projects have been taken up so far in two villages in Andhra Pradesh, namely, Kamalapur village in Warangal district and Banda village in East Godavari district.

(c) Test projects are being taken up in remote uneectrified villages where grid electricity is not cost-effective or feasible.

(d) and (e) Test projects have so far been taken up in 83 villages in 12 States. The State-wise break-up of villages is as follows:

Andhra Pradesh (2), Assam (14), Chhattisgarh (9), Gujarat (3), Jharkhand (1), Madhya Pradesh (15), Maharashtra (7), Orissa (10), Rajasthan (6), Tamil Nadu (4), Uttaranchal (5) and West Bengal (7). Six test projects have so far been commissioned, three in Madhya Pradesh in BetuI, Harda and Hoshangabad districts, and three in Tamil Nadu in Krishnagiri (2) and Dharmapuri districts.